

CLASSIFICATION

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COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT NO.

TOPIC Military Information from Rathenow

EVALUATION 25X1 PLACE OBTAINED 25X1

DATE OF CONTENT 19 to 31 May 1953

DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 18 June 1953

REFERENCES 25X1

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. &amp; TYPE)

REMARKS

## SOURCE

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1. On 19 and 22 May 1953, the Kraftfahrer Kaserne in Rathenow was occupied by an estimated 500 to 600 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets including some with artillery insignia. In April and May, two officers courses each numbering 40 to 50 officers of all branches of service including air force ranking from lieutenant to captain which, according to a seamstress who worked for the Russians, lasted about 6 weeks were held. Training trucks and ration supply truck were seen driving to the installation.

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2. Prior to 22 May, the Pionier Kaserne and Infanterie Kaserne were occupied only by a guard detail. Truck was observed leaving the Pionier Kaserne.

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3. On 19 and 25 May, the Ziethen Kaserne was occupied only by a rear detail of the headquarters and guarded by sentries wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia. The officers of the rear detail were seen apparently receiving training in the former high school for girls on Ebert Ring. No other training activity was observed.

4. Three rocket launchers of M-31 type were observed leaving the Kraftfahrer Kaserne on 26 May and returning in the evening of 27 May. On 28 May, 11 rocket launchers of M-31 type and

5 covered trucks were seen leaving the Kraftfahrer Kaserne. On 31 May, six rocket launchers of M-31 type and six covered trucks were loaded at the northern railroad station, coming from the Kraftfahrer Kaserne. The loading operations were observed. The departure was not observed.

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Comment. The Kraftfahrer Kaserne, Pionier Kaserne and Infanterie Kaserne are occupied in early May. The Ziethen Kaserne was carried occupied to capacity as late as at the end of April. The reference report tended to

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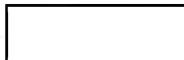
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indicate that the 321st Arty Rcn Bn and the unidentified signal battalion of the IV Arty Corps had left the installation for exercises in the northern portion of Letzling Heath on 4 May. Upon completion of the exercises on 13 May, these units possibly returned and transferred to Altengrabow. The present report tends to indicate that in late May only the headquarters of the artillery corps was left in the installation. It is believed possible that officers courses for officers of the artillery corps were held in the Kraftfahrer Kaserne. On 31 May, elements of the 25th RL Brig were loaded probably for firing practices at a troop training grounds.

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